

July 10, 1959

Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, President
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bronk:

Thank you for your letter of July 8th referring to my appointment to the Space Science Board. I will be very happy to contribute to this important mission. The only qualification I have to make is that the time I can allocate for travel is limited by my responsibilities to Stanford University and to my own research in the laboratory. While I strongly hope, of course, that this limitation will not be too serious an obstacle, let me state that I will not be in the least offended if Dr. Berkner or yourself should eventually prefer a more mobile colleague. Having said this, let me go on to say how very gratified I am that the problems of planetary biology are beginning to be adequately thought of as a vital aspect of our national space program. I have been in touch with a considerable number of my interested colleagues to discuss these problems and I would make every effort to represent the points of view of an estimable part of the scientific community in the deliberations of the Board.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics